

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF COLORADO
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2012

Chairperson Kathy Connell called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 in the auditorium of the headquarters building at 4201 East Arkansas Avenue, Denver, Colorado.

PRESENT WERE: Kathy Connell, District 6
Gilbert Ortiz, Sr., District 10
Don Hunt, Executive Director

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Harris, Chief Engineer
Heather Halpape, Public Relations
Heidi Bimmerle, Director, Admin. & Human Resources
Scott McDaniel, Director, Staff Branches
Ty Ortiz, Rock fall Program Manager
Casey Tighe, Audit Manager
Tony DeVito, Regional Transportation Director, Region 1
David Eller, Regional Transportation Director, Region 3
Tracie Smith, Risk Manager, CDOT HQ
Reza Akhavan, Regional Transportation Director, Region 6
Ina Zisman for Johnny Olson, Regional Transportation Director, Region 4
Kerrie Neet, Regional Transportation Director, Region 5

AND: Other staff members

One audiotape and supporting documentation is filed in the Transportation Commission office.

November 16, 2011 Transportation Commission of Colorado Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Connell asked if there were any comments on the November committee meeting minutes. There were none and the minutes were approved.

Highway Safety Public Relations Update

Public Relations (PR) Representative Heather Halpape provided an update on current Highway Safety Public Relations activities. The next *Heat is On* DUI Enforcement period is scheduled for March 16-19 over St. Patrick's Day. Recent enforcement periods including Thanksgiving Week, December Holiday Parties, New Year's and the Super Bowl resulted in 1,960 arrests across participating agencies. The Super Bowl Campaign used social media, radio ads and posters with a Super Bowl slant to promote responsibility when drinking.

There were no fatalities over the weekend of the Super Bowl enforcement period.

CDOT staffed a booth at the Colorado Motorcycle Show & Swap on January 28th and 29th at the National Western Complex. Booth staff handed out Motorcycle Skill Rating Maps and promoted training with a SmartTrainer motorcycle skill simulator, which was on site for attendees to test their skills. Preliminary 2011 data indicates 78 motorcyclists were killed, a decrease over 2010, but representing 18% of total traffic fatalities and 3% of registered vehicles.

Efforts for awareness to prevent Distracted Driving include the development of a new brochure and other materials, including a high school tool kit, and supporting local law enforcement efforts, for example providing brochures for officers to hand out on stops.

CDOT Risk Management Safety Performance Data and the Statewide Safety Report

Risk Manager Tracie Smith presented second quarter 2012 trends and provided an update on the Statewide Safety Report. Lost time injuries decreased 26% from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2. Total worker's compensation claims increased 4% over the prior year, but severity decreased. For auto liability and equipment, total auto accidents decreased 2% compared to the first quarter. Of the total accidents at 48, state fleet vehicles accounted for 17 of those, an increase from 15 over Quarter 1. Accidents involving equipment decreased from 29 in the first quarter compared to 24 second quarter. Snow removal was the primary task where most accidents occurred.

Total property damage claims increased 41% in the second quarter compared to the same period a year ago. Four property damage claims were a result of vehicle backing. Commissioner Connell asked if backing alarms were installed to help avoid backing incidents. Ms. Smith responded that some alarms have been installed on newer equipment.

Highlights from the Statewide Safety Plan include the Safety Advisory Group looking at ways to reinvent the safety award and safety campaigns to create enthusiasm among the employee base. Also, CDOT is currently working with new forms, and an accident investigation course has just been implemented to train first level supervisors on accident investigation and report writing.

The test period or pilot for Cartasite, a driving behavior data gathering device, is continuing and drivers receive feedback weekly, allowing them to monitor and improve their performance.

Updates were given on each Region and its progress in addressing the individual Statewide Safety Plan activities and a handout was provided with details from each region.

CDOT Rock Fall Report

Rock fall Program Manager Ty Ortiz presented a slideshow and update on fiscal year 2012 project statuses, second quarter assistance data and the 2012 work plan.

Current FY12 projects include I-70 Georgetown Hill in Region 1 where construction began this winter, SH 133 McClure Pass in Region 3 which is in the design phase, and US 40 Mt. Harris Canyon in Region 3 where construction is anticipated to begin in the spring.

Rock fall program staff provided assistance at 22 sites during the first half of FY 12. However, this total does not include smaller clean-up efforts handled by maintenance. Currently, rock fall staff is assisting Region 1 with draped netting at the Eisenhower Tunnel site. In Region 3, I-70 Glenwood Canyon, staff is planning a pilot for slope stability radar scanning as an early warning system for rock slides.

Region 6, Turkey Creek Canyon, had a rock fall incident. The site has barriers and catchments, but improvements are planned to add gravel to the ditch to absorb rock fall and to improve on the barrier.

Other rock fall work planned within the regions includes rock fall fence replacement in Region 3 at I-70 Glenwood Canyon, rock fall netting at Cameron Pass in Region 4, and rock removal at Yellow Jacket Pass in Region 5.

Statewide, staff will continue rock scaling, rock fall inspection and emergency response. Additionally, staff is hoping to roll out a rock fall call in system to report incidents. This would include maintenance and possibly the State Patrol and would allow those responding to an incident to call in and completed a series of questions, or survey, for a database that would help better track and assess the actual number of rock fall incidents within the State.

Other Matters and Adjournment

And there being no further matters to discuss, Chairperson Connell adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

Herman Stockinger, Secretary
Transportation Commission of Colorado